

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Please amend claims 1-2, 4-5 and 9-14, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A file sharing method in a storage system, the storage system having a controller and a plurality of disk drives for sharing a file stored in the storage system, and being connected to a first host computer and a second host computer, the first host computer being operatively connected to communicate with said second host computer via a local area network, the storage system being operatively connected to each of the first host computer and the second host computer via a storage area network, the first host computer using a first operating system for managing ~~the file~~ files using a first format and first file management information, the second host computer using a second operating system for managing ~~the file~~ files using a second format different from said first format and second file management information, and the storage system storing the first file management information when the file to be shared is stored in the storage system, the first file management information including information of a location of a disk area where the file to be shared is allocated by the first operating system, the second file management information including information of ~~[[the]]~~ a disk area location capable of being managed by the second operating system, said method ~~comprises~~ comprising the steps of:
 - receiving at the controller a host ID of said second host computer;
 - determining via a host table of the controller a conversion for ~~that~~ the second host computer ~~manages to manage~~ to manage said file to be shared;
 - converting said first file management information into said second file management information; and
 - reading data corresponding to said file to be shared on the basis of said second information from said disk drives by the second host computer.
2. (Currently Amended) The file sharing method according to Claim 1, wherein:
 - said first operating system manages said location where said file to be shared is allocated on the basis of a block having a first fixed length;
 - said second operating system manages said location where said file to be shared is allocated on the basis of a block having a second fixed length that is different from said first fixed length; and

said conversion step converts a block number of a first block included in said first file management information into corresponding second information according to a ratio of a data length of said first fixed length to a data length of said second fixed length.

3. (Previously Presented) The file sharing method according to Claim 1, wherein:

said second file management information, which has been converted by said conversion step, is stored in a cache area in said storage system.

4. (Currently Amended) A storage system that is connected to a first host computer and a second host computer, the first host computer using a first operating system for managing a file to be shared using a first format and first file management information, and the second host computer using a second operating system for managing ~~the file~~ files using a second format different from said first format and second file management information, the first host computer being operatively connected to communicate with said second host computer via a local area network, the storage system being operatively connected to each of the first host computer and the second host computer via a storage area network, the storage system storing the first file management information when the file to be shared is stored in the storage system, the first file management information including information of a location of a disk area where the file to be shared is allocated by the first operating system, the second file management information including information of ~~[[the]]~~ a disk area location capable of being managed by the second operating system, said storage system comprising:

a plurality of disk drives for storing data therein; and

a disk controller comprising an interface for connecting to said first host computer and said second host computer, and an interface for connecting to said plurality of disk drives, wherein:

said disk controller comprises:

a means for receiving a host ID of said second host computer and determining ~~that~~ a conversion for the second host computer ~~manages to manage~~ the file to be shared by the second operating system including a host table;

means for converting said first file management information into said second file management information; and

a means for reading data corresponding to said file to be shared on the basis of the second information from said disk drives when an access request to access said file to be shared is issued from said second host computer.

5. (Currently Amended) The storage system according to Claim 4, wherein:

said means for converting said first file management information into said second file management information is further for converting a block number of a first block of said first information according to a ratio of a data length of a first fixed-length block, which is used when said first operating system manages the location of the disk area where said file to be shared is allocated, to a data length of a second fixed-length block, which is used when said second operating system manages said location of the disk area where said file to be shared is allocated.

6. (Previously Presented) The storage system according to Claim 4, wherein:

said second file management information in said second format corresponding to said first file management information in said first format is held by any one of said plurality of disk drives instead of the disk controller.

7. (Previously Presented) The storage system according to Claim 6, wherein:

a first disk drive and a second disk drive of said plurality of disk drives hold said first file management information, and said second information respectively; and both of said first disk drive and said second disk drive hold said file.

8. (Previously Presented) The storage system according to Claim 7, wherein:

said disk controller accesses said first disk drive when an access request to access said file is issued from said first host computer; and

said disk controller accesses said second disk drive when an access request to access said file is issued from said second host computer.

9. (Currently Amended) The storage system according to Claim 4, wherein:

said disk controller comprises a means for exclusive control of an access request from said second host computer when said access request to access said file to be shared from said second host computer conflicts with an access request to access said file to be shared from said first host computer.

10. (Currently Amended) A storage system that is connected to a first host computer and a second host computer, the first host computer being operatively connected to communicate with said second host computer via a local area network, the storage system being operatively connected to each of the first host computer and the second host computer via a storage area network, the first host computer using a first operating system for managing a file to be shared using a first format and first file management information, the second host computer using a second operating system for managing ~~the file~~ files using a second format different from said first format and second file management information, the storage system storing the first file management information when the file to be shared is stored in the storage system, the first file management information including information of a location of a disk area where the file to be shared is allocated by the first operating system, the second file management information including information of ~~[[the]]~~ a disk area location capable of being managed by the second operating system, said storage system comprising:

a plurality of disk drives for storing data therein; and

a disk controller comprising an interface for connecting to said first host computer and said second host computer, and an interface for connecting to said plurality of disk drives; wherein:

said disk controller mirrors said file to be shared, which is stored in any one of said plurality of disk drives and is managed under said first operating system, in another disk drive of said plurality of disk drives;

said disk controller converts via a host table said first file management information into a corresponding second file management information to write the corresponding second file management information into said another disk drive; and

said disk controller reads said file to be shared from said another disk drive when an access request to access said file to be shared is issued from said second host computer.

11. (Currently Amended) The storage system according to Claim 10, wherein:

said disk controller converts said first file management information into said second file management information according to a ratio of a data length of a first fixed-length block, which is used when said first operating system manages the

location where said file to be shared is allocated, to a data length of a second fixed-length block, which is used when said second operating system manages said location where the file to be shared is allocated.

12. (Currently Amended) The file sharing method according to Claim 1, wherein
the first file management information comprises a block number of a first block and a partition of the location where the file to be shared is allocated, and
the second file management information comprises a block number of a corresponding first block and corresponding partition of the location where the file to be shared is allocated, the block number of the corresponding first block and the corresponding partition being manageable by the second operating system.
13. (Currently Amended) The storage system according to Claim 4, wherein
the first file management information comprises a block number of a first block and a partition of the location where the file to be shared is allocated, and
the second file management information comprises a block number of a corresponding first block and corresponding partition of the location where the file to be shared is allocated, the block number of the corresponding first block and the corresponding partition being manageable by the second operating system.
14. (Currently Amended) The storage system according to Claim 10, wherein
the first file management information comprises a block number of a first block and a partition of the location where the file to be shared is allocated, and
the second file management information comprises a block number of a corresponding first block and corresponding partition of the location where the file to be shared is allocated, the block number of the corresponding first block and the corresponding partition being manageable by the second operating system.